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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM (16)

PAGE 01 KINGST 02594 121754Z 7070

ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 101345Z APR 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2198
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2594

E.O. 12065: GDS 4/9/86 (LAWRENCE L) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: JAMAICAN ELECTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RG DATE 25 JUN 1982
RDS or XD (EXT. DATE
TS AUTH.
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING E.A. 07(3)
DECLASSIFY
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE HAVE HEARD FROM SEVERAL PERSONS THAT BOTH THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE PRESSING THE ELECTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC) FOR AS EARLY AN ELECTION AS POSSIBLE-- SOME EVEN SAY MAY OR JUNE. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PROF. MILLS, IS SO FAR REPORTEDLY TOUGHLY RESISTING THESE PRESSURES BECAUSE HE FEELS THAT IS NO WAY NEW ELECTORAL LISTS CAN TECHNICALLY BE PREPARED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. MILL HIMSELF HAS NOT PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON THE JULY-AUGUST TIME FRAME WHICH BOTH PARTIES HAVE PUBLICLY MENTIONED AS DESIRABLE. WE EXPECT THE ELECTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO GIVE SOME INDICATION OF A TIME FRAME PROBABLY BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

3. MEANWHILE THE COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY OF JAMAICA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL NOT BE PUTTING UP ANY CANDIDATES IN THE

GENERAL ELECTION "IN LIGHT OF THE PNP'S CHANGING ITS POSITION ON THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ANO SUPPORTING THE NON-IMF ROAD--A POSITION LONG CALLED FOR BY THE WPJ." THE WPJ WILL FIELD SOME CANDIDATES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS. (COMMENT: PROBALY MORE TO THE POINT, THE WPJ MUST HAVE BEEN JOLTED BY THE LATEST CARL STONE POLL WHICH SHOWED THAT THEIR ELECTORAL SUPPORT HAD SHRUNK TO LESS THAN ONE PERCENT-- SEE KINGSTON 2479)

4. FOR ITS PART, THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN STRENUOUS FUND RAISING AND HAS BEEN PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON ITS LIST OF CANDIDATES. PARTY LEADER SEAGA HAS BEEN IN MIAMI FOR ABOUT A WEEK, RAISING MONEY. WHILE THERE HE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE AGAIN CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS IN THE ELECTION (REJECTED OUT OF HAND BY MANLEY--SEE KINGSTON 2465) COMMENT: IF ASKED WE INTEND TO SAY THAT WE HAVE NO OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT BEYOND COMMENTING THAT WE ALWAYS SUPPORT FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS BUT BELIEVE THE QUESTION OF ASKING FOR OBSERVERS IS UP TO THE JAMAICANS. (DRAFTED BY R. DUBOSE.)
LAWRENCE

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